

I. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated May 20th, 2003, Applicant requests that the claims be amended as set forth below.

D 1 1-5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) A loudspeaker component having a panel-like region, which may include flat and curved portions, structured with hard surfaces of molding material and containing an embedded core of sound-damping material, comprising:

a first surface layer molding material made to have a predetermined boundary outline;
a core layer of sound-damping material made to have a predetermined outline smaller than that of said first layer so as to form a peripheral margin of molding material, wherein the margin extends to form a throat to direct the sound of the loudspeaker; and

a second surface layer of molding material, having an outline similar to that of said first layer and located in substantial registration therewith, bonded to said first layer in the peripheral margin so as to form a sealed core region containing said core layer.

7. (original) The loudspeaker component as defined in claim 6 wherein the molding material is a commercially available thermosetting resin with fiberglass reinforcement.

8. (original) The loudspeaker component as defined in claim 6 wherein the said core material is selected from a group of sound-damping materials including a filled vinyl copolymer compound and a filled silicon rubber compound.

9. (previously added) A loudspeaker component, comprising:

a first layer;
a second layer, wherein the second layer is fixed to the first layer so as to define a core and a margin, wherein the margin comprises a first flange and a second flange; and

sound damping material disposed in the core so as to be completely encased by the first layer and the second layer,

wherein the first layer, the sound damping material, and the second layer comprise a three-layer laminate and wherein the first flange extend to raise the three-layer laminate so that an interior surface of the second layer defines a throat.

10. (previously amended) The loudspeaker component of claim 9, wherein the core defines a trapezoid.

11-12. (cancelled)

13. (previously amended) The loudspeaker component of claim 9, wherein each of the first flange and the second flange are defined by a first state as individual pieces and a second state as a single homogeneous mass of cured molding material.

14. (previously amended) The loudspeaker component of claim 9, wherein the sound damping material comprises a mineral-filled dampening material.

15. (previously amended) The loudspeaker component of claim 9, wherein the first layer, the sound damping material, and the second layer comprise a no more than three-layer laminate.

16. (previously amended) The loudspeaker component of claim 9, wherein the sound damping material comprises a mineral-filled damping material.

17. (previously amended) The loudspeaker component of claim 9, wherein the sound damping material comprises a solid material.

18. (previously amended) The loudspeaker component of claim 17, wherein the solid sound damping material comprises a vinyl copolymer compound.

19. (previously amended) The loudspeaker component of claim 17, wherein the sound damping material comprises balsa wood.

20. (previously amended) The loudspeaker component of claim 9, wherein the sound damping material comprises balsa wood.
21. (previously amended) The loudspeaker component of claim 9, wherein each of the first layer, the sound damping material, and the second layer defined a thickness, and wherein the thickness of each of the first layer, the sound damping material, and the second layer is equal.
22. (previously amended) The loudspeaker component of claim 21, wherein the thickness, and wherein the thickness of each of the first layer, the sound damping material, and second layer is equal.
23. (previously amended) The loudspeaker component of claim 9, wherein a collective of the margin and the three-layer laminate defines a thickness that is substantially constant throughout the margin and the three-layer laminate.
24. (previously amended) The loudspeaker component of claim 9, wherein the first layer is one of a sheet molding compound, a low pressure molding compound, a bulk molding compound, a thick molding compound, a fiberglass filled epoxy resin, a fiberglass filled polyether resin, and a fiberglass filled polyester resin in a styrene monomer.
25. (currently amended) A loudspeaker component, comprising:
 - a first layer;
 - a second layer, wherein the second layer is fixed to the first layer so as to define a core and a margin, wherein the margin comprises a first flange and a second flange, and a wherein the first and second flanges extend to form a throat to direct the sound of the loudspeaker; and
 - sound damping material disposed in the core so as to be completely encased by the first layer and the second layer.
26. (previously amended) The loudspeaker component of claim 25, wherein the core defines a trapezoid.

27. (previously amended) The loudspeaker component of claim 25, wherein the margin is a solid structure.
28. (previously amended) The loudspeaker component of claim 27, wherein the first layer, the sound damping material, and the second layer comprise a three-layer laminate and wherein the first flange and the second flange extend to raise the three-layer laminate so that an interior surface of the second layer defines a throat.
29. (previously amended) The loudspeaker component of claim 28, wherein the first flange and the second flange extend away from one another at an acute angle.
30. (previously amended) The loudspeaker component of claim 29, wherein a collective of the margin and the three-layer laminate defines a thickness that is substantially constant throughout the margin and the three-layer laminate.